

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A ~~[[D]]~~domestic electrical appliance, particularly washing machine, clothes drying machine or dishwasher, having comprising:

at least one control device ~~(10, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80)~~, with which is associated at least one display device ~~(15)~~ with a light source ~~(16, 66, 76, 86)~~ for providing visual information to the user,

the control device at least partly comprising a covering material which for a standard material thickness ~~(14)~~ is substantially opaque and in an area provided for the display device has at least one transillumination area ~~(20, 35, 41, 46, 60, 63, 75, 85)~~ in which the material thickness of the covering material is so reduced compared with the standard material thickness that the transillumination area can be transilluminated by the light of the light source ~~(16)~~.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~[[D]]~~domestic electrical appliance according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the light source ~~(16, 66, 76, 86)~~ is positioned at the back of the control device ~~(10, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80)~~ facing the transillumination area ~~(20, 35, 41, 46, 60, 63, 75, 85)~~.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~[[D]]~~domestic electrical appliance according to claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the covering material is a plastic, ~~particularly an ABS plastic~~.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~[[D]]~~domestic electrical appliance according to one of the preceding claim[s] 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transillumination area ~~(20, 35, 41, 46, 60, 63, 75, 85)~~ of the control device ~~(10, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80)~~ is produced by injection moulding during the manufacture of the control device.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~[[D]]~~domestic electrical appliance according to one of the preceding claim[s] 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the standard material thickness ~~(14)~~

exceeds approximately 1 mm ~~and is in particular at least 2 mm.~~

6. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ [[D]] domestic electrical appliance according to ~~one of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the material thickness in the transillumination area (20, 35, 41, 46, 60, 63, 75, 85) is at least zonally less than approximately 0.8 mm, ~~particularly less than approximately 0.5 mm and preferably between approximately less than approximately 0.5 mm and preferably between approximately 0.3 mm and approximately 0.5 mm.~~

7. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ [[D]] domestic electrical appliance according to ~~one of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ a user-facing front surface (12) of the control device is closed and/or substantially smooth in the vicinity of the display device (15).

8. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ [[D]] domestic electrical appliance according to ~~one of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ a user-facing front surface (12) of the control device has in the vicinity of and/or in the transillumination area a ~~preferably permanently~~ visible marking (25) for a functionality associated with the light source.

9. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ [[D]] domestic electrical appliance according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the control device back (13, 43, 53) facing or which can be made to face the light source has a macroscopic surface structuring in the transillumination area (20).

10. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ [[D]] domestic electrical appliance according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the surface structuring is constructed as a structure scattering the light of the light source (16).

11. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ [[D]] domestic electrical appliance according to claim 9 or 10, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the surface structure has a plurality of grooves (21) and raised portions (22) and the covering material is at least zonally transilluminatable, at least in the vicinity of the grooves.

12. (Currently amended) ~~The [[D]]domestic electrical appliance according to one of the preceding claim[s] 1, characterized in that wherein~~ additional light-varying or light-conducting devices are located in the transillumination area (20, 35, 41, 46, 60, 63, 75, 85) and comprise separate parts.

13. (Currently amended) ~~The [[D]]domestic electrical appliance according to claim 12, characterized in that wherein~~ the devices are coloured and are in particular colour wheels.

14. (Currently amended) ~~The [[D]]domestic electrical appliance according to claim 12 or 13, characterized by at least one device from the following group: light guides, light distributors, light deflectors, concentrators, lenses and prisms and preferably in the case of light-conducting elements the light source (16) can also be further removed from the transillumination area (20, 35, 41, 46, 60, 63, 75, 85).~~

15. (Currently amended) ~~The [[D]]domestic electrical appliance according to one of the claim[s] 12 to 14, characterized in that wherein~~ the light-varying or light-conducting device (65) is connected in fixed, non-detachable manner with the control device close to or directly at the transillumination area (63) and is in particular moulded in using a multicomponent process.

16. (Currently amended) ~~The [[D]]domestic electrical appliance according to one of the claim[s] 12 to 14, characterized in that wherein~~ the light-varying or light-conducting device (77) is detachably fixed, preferably screwed or clipped, to the control device.

17. (Currently amended) ~~The [[D]]domestic electrical appliance according to one of the preceding claim[s] 1, characterized in that wherein~~ in the transillumination area (60) the control device (50) has at least one recess in the form of a multisegment display, particularly in the form of a seven-segment display.

18. (Currently amended) ~~The [[D]]domestic electrical appliance according to one of the preceding claim[s] 1, characterized in that wherein~~ the light source has at least one light

emitting diode (16, 66, 76, 86).

19. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ [[D]] domestic electrical appliance according to ~~one of the preceding claim~~ [[s]] 1, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ with the transillumination area (20) is associated an actuating device (30, 32) for actuating a function or functional device of the domestic electrical appliance and preferably the actuating device has no movable parts.

20. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ [[D]] domestic electrical appliance according to claim 19, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the actuating device has a sensor device (30, 32) for generating switching signals as a reaction to an approach or contact of an area surrounding the transillumination area and preferably the sensor device is constructed as a capacitive sensor device.

21. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ [[D]] domestic electrical appliance according to claim 19 or 20, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the actuating device has at least one sensor element (30) fitted to the control device back and which at least zonally surrounds the transillumination area (20).

22. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ [[D]] domestic electrical appliance according to ~~one of the preceding claim~~ [[s]] 1, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the control device is a panel (40), which is in particular placed in fixed manner on the domestic electrical appliance, the covering material being the panel material and for control purposes there are further actuating devices such as sensor devices (30, 32) or the like.

23. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ [[D]] domestic electrical appliance according to ~~one of the claim~~ [[s]] 1 to 21, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ the control device (70, 80) is movable and is located on one side of the domestic electrical appliance, e.g. a panel (71, 81), the control or operation of the domestic electrical appliance being determined by the direction and/or extent of the movement.

24. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ [[D]] domestic electrical appliance according to claim 23, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the control device is a toggle (70, 80) with a movement direction in a plane parallel to the side of the domestic electrical appliance, ~~preferably being a rotary toggle.~~

25. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ [[D]] domestic electrical appliance according to claim 23, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the control device is a button with a movement direction into the side of the domestic electrical appliance and is preferably a push button.

26. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ [[D]] domestic electrical appliance according to ~~one of the preceding claim[s]]~~ 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the light source (16, 66, 76, 86) at least partly projects into the control device ~~and is preferably located therein.~~

27. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ [[D]] domestic electrical appliance according to ~~one of the claim[s]]~~ 1 to 25, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the light source (16, 66, 76, 86) is located in the domestic electrical appliance outside the control device and preferably with a light-conducting duct from the light source to the transillumination area and in particular the light-conducting duct is a light guide.

28. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ [[C]] control device, ~~particularly panel (10, 40, 50) for~~ fixing to an electrical appliance, particularly to a washing machine, a clothes drying machine or a dishwasher, the control device ~~at least partly comprising~~ including a covering material which at the standard material thickness (14) selected for the control device is substantially opaque and in an area provided for a display device for providing the user with visual information has at least one transillumination area (20, 35, 41, 46, 60), in which the covering material thickness is so reduced compared with the standard material thickness that the transillumination area can at least zonally be transilluminated by the light of a light source positioned facing the back of the control device.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (New) The domestic electrical appliance according to claim 3, wherein the covering material is an ABS plastic.

31. (New) The domestic electrical appliance according to claim 5, wherein the standard material thickness is at least 2 mm.

32. (New) The domestic electrical appliance according to claim 6, wherein the material thickness in the transillumination area is less than approximately 0.5 mm.

33. (New) The domestic electrical appliance according to claim 32, wherein the material thickness in the transillumination area is between approximately 0.3 mm and approximately 0.5 mm.

34. (New) The domestic electrical appliance according to claim 13, wherein the devices are color wheels.

35. (New) The domestic electrical appliance according to claim 14, wherein in the case of light-conducting elements the light source can also be further removed from the transillumination area.

36. (New) The domestic electrical appliance according to claim 15, wherein the light-varying or light-conducting device is molded in using a multicomponent process.

37. (New) The domestic electrical appliance according to claim 17, wherein the control device has at least one recess in the form of a seven segment display.

38. (New) The domestic electrical appliance according to claim 19, wherein the actuating device has no movable parts.

39. (New) The domestic electrical appliance according to claim 24, wherein the control device is a rotary toggle.